

**REMARKS**

In the above-mentioned Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4-10 were rejected as anticipated by *Cancio* (4,380,564 or 4,465,729) and as being unpatentable over *Cancio* in view of *Kishimoto* (5,560,966), claim 3 was rejected as being unpatentable over *Cancio* in view of *Oshima* (6,284,708) and claims 2, 4 and 6-10 were rejected as being indefinite. In response thereto claims 1-10 have been cancelled and new claims 11-77 have been added.

The new claims, generally speaking, include a plurality of cut lines along which the sheet is bent upwardly or downwardly and thereby split along the cut lines to separate out the sheet portions. Bending and splitting along cut lines forms smooth edges for the sheet portions, unlike tearing along perforated lines. The claims as now pending are thereby not taught by the prior art, Applicant respectfully submits.

The two *Cancio* patents applied by the Examiner refer to a sheet that has embossing (not die cuts) and is tearable long the embossed line.

The *Kishimoto* patent also refers to tearing. This patent includes a diamond-shaped hole that initiates the tear, presumably in the direction of the diamond.

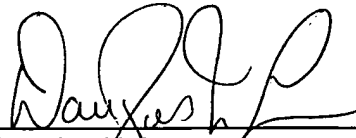
Thus, in all three of these patents, tearing is the mechanism of separation as compared with bending and splitting which is the case of the present application. Tearing involves a line (either preformed, as in *Cancio*, or not, as in *Kishimoto*) in a plane that separates the plane into two sections. To rupture along the line, the two sections must move perpendicular to the plane. In the case of tearing, the motion of the two sides is opposite, that is, one section moves upward perpendicular to the plane, while the other side moves downward perpendicular to the plane, causing separation to occur at one point on the line and travelling to the end. In the case of bending and splitting as in this application, the motion of the two sections is in the same direction and angular. That is to say, the two sections are folded toward one another in a way as to form a dihedral angle between the sections. This causes the separation to occur nearly simultaneously along the entire line.

The *Oshima* patent deals with removing what is essentially a dry peel laminated label from a matrix. There is no breaking of the resin along a die cut line; rather, the die cut line only serves to provide the outline of the label being removed. This is unrelated to the present application.

It is thus respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone counsel at (310) 788-5053 to seek to resolve them.

Please charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-2230.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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